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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,783	12/22/2000	Alireza Rezania	ETH1432	1671
7590 07/01/2004			EXAMINER	
Philip S. Johnson, Esq. Johnson & Johnson One Johnson & Johnson Plaza New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003			WEBMAN, EDWARD J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1617	

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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09/745783

APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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6/6/04

DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.
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OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/9/04

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) 14-30 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.
☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892
☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES--

Art Unit: 1617

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1 "relative" is vague; relative to what?

Applicants argue but do not claim A relative to B.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dorigatti et al.

Dorigatti et al teach bioabsorbable nonwoven fabric materials (abstract). Mixtures of fibers in a ratio of 1-100% are specified, including copolymers of polylactic and polyglycolic acid (column 3 lines 1-20). 65 micron fibers are disclosed (column 19 line 34). As to the claimed porosity, such is demonstrated in Fig. 2. A rectangular shape is demonstrated (Fig.2). As to the asserted properties, they must be possessed by the anticipatory composition because it is the same as that claimed.

Applicants argue that the amended claim does not include hyaluronic acid. However, claim 1 ^{IN DORIGATTI ET AL} discloses any mixture^A of polymers disclosed in column 3 lines 1-20, including collagen, which is both a poly (amino acid) and a polyamide, and polyphosphazenes.

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Claims 6-7 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

RECORDED IN CLAIMS 6, 7.
Claim 1 discloses the claimed polymers. In fact, claim 7 broadens rather than
narrows claim 1 with the limitation "biopolymers".

No claims allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Edward J. Webman at telephone number 571-272-0633.

Webman/tgd

June 8, 2004

EDWARD J. WEBMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1500